













## THE CONSTITUTION.

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the and there a little, and not much after all. We are pleased to note a revival of interest in the good roads question in Georgia, but we fear that, if the work is not systematized, but little practical benefit will result. Money can be very profitably invested in country roads, and as soon as the farmer sees and understands this, he will set to work in the right way and benefit himself and the state.

There are a dozen or more counties in Georgia that have first-class roads. Why cannot all have them?

**A Voice from Missouri.**  
 The legislature of Missouri has been considering a measure making it possible for a creditor to collect from an employer wages due an employee, and this has caused The St. Louis Republic to enter into an examination of the grounds on which the state proceeds in the matter—the principle on which the state is supposed to base its interference as a collector of debts.

Our contemporary, without mincing matters, traces the whole procedure back to barbarism. At one time it was held that the state had the right to deprive the debtor of his liberty by imprisonment if he would not or could not pay his just debts. Georgia was settled by men fresh from debtors' prisons, but it was not so very long ago that imprisonment for debt was common in this state. It is still the law in New York, unless it has been lately repealed, so that the great Empire State is not so far ahead of the African villages where the debtor, unable to pay, is turned over to the creditor as a slave. It would seem that the state, through the medium of some of our laws we can reach out and touch the rankest barbarism.

Our St. Louis contemporary sees in the garnishment laws which the Missouri legislature is discussing a survival of the barbaric theory that the body of the debtor belongs to the creditor, or to the state, which represents the creditor, until the debt is satisfied. "Hence," says The Republic, "we have this theory of garnishment by the state—the theory that, even if the state refuses to capture the debtor and hold him as a slave in bonds until he pays it is the state's duty, all the more, because of its refusal, to act as an overseer or steward for the creditor, taking away the debtor's earnings and turning them over to the creditor as soon as possible. This is no change at all in the principle that the debtor ought to be the creditor's property until the debt is paid, for the man whose earnings are forcibly controlled by another is that other's slave."

The whole question is of great interest. It is a many-sided one and it will be long before the last word is said.

**The Appreciation of Gold—What It Means.**

On various occasions quite recently and in the past The Constitution has called attention to the disastrous results attendant on the constant increase in the value of gold—to the ceaseless enlargement of debts and interest—to the crushing and merciless grind upon those who depend on the products of the earth to pay their debts.

The goldholders and their organs at the north and east have satisfied themselves up to the present time with broad and blatant denial of the fact that gold has appreciated in value. Yet the fact is so plain that it is hardly necessary to argue it. Why argue with a farmer who knows that a debt which he could formerly pay with one bale of cotton now calls for two? We do not propose to argue the matter now, but merely call attention to some recent statements made by The Financial News of London, one of the organs of Lombard street. It is curious that a fact which American financiers (so-called) deny should meet prompt recognition in the very bibles as it were of monetism. "What is to be the ultimate fate of silver?" says The London Financial News. "Is not, however, the main matter of immediate concern. The interest of everybody is centered just now in a far more urgent question, although one not disconnected with the fall in silver—namely, the appreciation of gold."

The Financial News goes on to declare that "it is the continual, ceaseless, resolute competition for gold that is causing all the mischief—depressing values, hindering trade, killing agriculture and threatening the world with consequences which will be wilfully blind refuse to see. If there is one incontrovertible and dominant fact in the situation, it is that the gold production of the world does not keep pace with the currency needs of the constantly increasing populations of the world."

These are strong and true words—so strong that we feel impelled to explain again that they are not uttered by any "silver inflationist" at the south or west, but by a single gold standard organ at the headquarters of monetism—the Financial News of London. How is it that the London editor has the boldness to announce a fact that is fatal to his theory and policy, while American goldholders angrily deny its existence? We leave the discussion of this question to those who have the patience to wade through the organs of goldolatry and try to catch them telling the truth.

There are whispers that those who manage the finances of India are considering the propriety of demonetizing silver and erecting the single gold standard there. This would mean a new demand for gold, and would simply add to the grinding process that is destroying the productive and commercial prosperity of the world. The Financial News of London is afraid that the American republic will sell its silver at a sacrifice and enter into the scramble for gold regardless of the ordinary considerations of profit or loss. This is what the money power is driving at, and this is why it has been moving heaven and earth to secure the unconditional repeal of the silver act of 1890; but they will not succeed. The people whose prosperity is at stake will have more real strength in the new congress than they have in the present body, and if their representatives remain true to the obligations they have assumed and the pledges they have made, the repeal of the silver law will mean the substitution of a law which more completely recognizes silver as money or as a basis for currency notes.

Commenting on the practical results of the repeal of the silver law here, followed by the inevitable scramble among the nations of the earth for a sufficiency of gold

to maintain their currency, the London organ says: "Probably England would be able to hold her own; but that is not the point. A general insufficiency of the standard metal would put up money rates, disturb confidence, and paralyze trade. There would probably be a general convulsion, with economic consequences such as no one can very clearly foresee. It is obvious that anything which tends to increase the scarcity of gold must further appreciate its value, and any further appreciation of value must react upon the prices of commodities with disastrous effect. The position is already quite serious enough. Short-sighted optimists may flatter themselves that commercial conditions are going to improve; they will not improve much until these currency troubles are removed out of the way. Prices of agricultural produce are already so low that agriculture as a trade is threatened with extinction in England. The cotton industry can only maintain itself, paradoxical though it may sound, by enforced periods of idleness. Our shipping trade is in a deplorably bad condition, and the central pivot of all these evils is the scarcity of gold, the chief circulating medium—the comparative scarcity of gold."

The situation here is not as bad as it is in England, but it is rapidly approaching that point. The country is more expansive and more productive than England, and the average man is more prosperous here than he is there; but for these very reasons the results of the continued appreciation of gold will be more serious here and will be more seriously resented by the people who, after all, control the politicians.

There is one fact connected with the appreciation of gold that no thoughtful person can have failed to observe (and that even the thoughtless will perceive before very long)—namely, that all the conditions affecting the movements of gold have changed during the past twelve months. This is shown by the continued exports of gold from this country, even at a loss. This outflow has been going on for some time, and the repeal of a hundred Sherman laws would not change it. Europe realizes that the serious loss in value of gold means something serious in the end, and she is fortifying herself against the convulsions that must ensue. There are two remedies—one doubtful and complicated and the other simple. One is for the United States to enter into the competition for gold and get it by paying a premium for it. This remedy cannot and will not be carried out. The other—safe and simple—is bimetalism, the policy set forth in the democratic platform—the policy to which the party is solemnly pledged.

The new senator from Nebraska weighs 225 pounds. There ought to be an ounce or two of statesmanship in this superlativity. Editor Pat Walsh says that a chew of tobacco taken by a Georgia man changed the complexion of Mr. Cleveland's cabinet. Come, gentle spring, and sweep the water off the front porch. The democratic party will not expose its valentine until after the 4th of March. As a sign of the season we may say that judges are doing very well. Judge Gresham was for Grant for a third term. This fact shows that the judge has staying qualities. An extra session will help the democratic party if it is devoted to carrying out the pledges made in the platform. How do the goldholders expect to keep gold in new United States when the nations of Europe are scrambling for it and there is not enough of the stuff to go round? The remedy for a premium on gold is to demonize it. Nobody is afraid that silver will go to a premium at this time.

**EDITORIAL COMMENT.**

The Memphis Appeal-Avalanche wants to know who will fill the new cabinet positions for the ensuing week. Let not the forty thousand and four candidates all speak at once! The anti-kissing crusade in Ohio threatens to result in an exodus of young men. Ohio is not a very healthy place for a young man, but there is still room for more. Let the young men come south!

Judge Thomas Halliday, of Fredericktown, Mo., has been probed judge, circuit clerk, recorder United States land office, state auditor and now a candidate for the legislature. He is a man of many talents, and would like to be a chief of division in the treasury department at Washington, a position which he has held before. The judge doesn't want the earth—the United States.

The Chicago Daily Globe thinks that the senatorial elections in North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming are proceeding at a rate which goes to prove that in the mysterious dispensation of fate, the young ladies of the populist party there was but one result intended—the selection of democratic senators in states heretofore republican.

The ministers of Kansas City have held a meeting and by a majority vote decided that church members should not be allowed to read papers. This causes an exchange to remark: "If these good people wish to decrease newspaper circulation, they will not do it by reading papers. We violate no confidence when we say that it is uncommonly hard work to put into readable shape and type many of these Sunday sermons."

That there should be "relatively more negroes in jail in the north than the south," that in New England 4 per cent, and in New York 5 per cent of the adult males of that state be convicted of crime, is a fact which is not to be denied. The Nashville American, commenting upon this, says: "A similar ratio in Tennessee would give us six thousand prisoners, instead of the present less than one-third of that number. If Mr. Porter's census is correct, and one black man out of every twenty in New York belongs to the criminal class, after all the education and care bestowed on them, may it not be true that the negro is not yet civilized enough to be trusted with the ballot and the reins of government?"

The report of the commissioner of education for 1890-91, will contain a report on legal education, prepared by a committee of the American Bar Association and the United States Board of Education, advance sheets of which have been issued from the United States Board of Education. From that report of the committee on legal education, submitted at Saratoga, N. Y., August 24, 1892, we make the following: "We are not setting up an ideal standard of morals when we insist that even in the law school, the work of which is mainly technical, the student should be so trained as to think he is to be a mere hired gladiator, fighting indifferently for one side or the other that pays his fee. There are, indeed, many cases in which the lawyer is not to be justly maintained the legal right of either party. But every lawyer has much to do with the question whether litigation shall begin or not, and he who induces it from selfish motives, and who is not guided by the physician who knowingly spreads the germs of disease."

**Just So.**  
 From The St. Louis Republic.  
 Judge Gresham is so much better than the republican party that he is to all intents a democrat—and a long way better democrat than some of those who pass for democrats in New England and New York.

**A Fair Warning.**  
 From The Washington Post.  
 If spring does any mischief lingering in the air, etc., this year will be a very bad one for the nation. It is a lively bunch of promise stuff.

**Mr. Charles H. Mullenberg, of Baltimore, discovered among some old papers at his house**

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